



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
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Arapahoe County Commissioners approve funding for parks, trails projects

Open Spaces partners to enhance recreational corridors along Cherry Creek and Highline Canal

Littleton, CO – The Board of County Commissioners approved funding for joint projects with Greenwood Village and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District during a recent public meeting. With the endorsement and joint-funding of these projects, the Open Spaces department kick-starts 2015.

More than 26 percent of Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax funding is dedicated to acquire open space and develop trails. A portion of this percentage is focused toward ensuring an exciting, safe and enjoyable trail experience for users of the three major recreational corridors — Cherry Creek, High Line Canal and South Platte. Through collaboration from city, county, state and special district elected leaders, funds will continue to be leveraged among jurisdictions to enhance Arapahoe County's regional trail systems.

"These wonderful projects will bring further enjoyment, ease of access and safety to thousands of trail and park users," said Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, District 2, who serves as Board Chair. "This is only the beginning of another great year collaborating with community partners to leverage resources that enrich our resident's enjoyment at Arapahoe County parks, trails and open spaces."

The City of Greenwood Village, in partnership with Arapahoe County will soon begin the fourth phase of development for Village Greens North Park.

The park is nestled just below the Dam Road on the west side of Cherry Creek Reservoir and features popular 18-hole Disc Golf and 2.75-mile cutting-edge Mountain Bike courses. In this phase, Greenwood Village will further develop the northern-most acreage of the park to include an inviting entry and trailhead with additional seating, a restroom and covered shelter.

The County will provide a 50 percent contribution to this project in the amount of \$72,800 — funding made possible by the generous Arapahoe County voters of the Open Space Sales and Use Tax.

"On behalf of all those that enjoy the Village Greens North disc golf and mountain bike skills courses, we are excited to begin the design of these much-needed amenities and very grateful for Arapahoe County Open Space's continued partnership in supporting active, healthy communities," said Suzanne Moore, Parks, Trails and Recreation Director for Greenwood Village.

South Suburban Park and Recreation District is hard at work enhancing the High Line Canal experience. With sponsorship from the cities of Centennial and Littleton, South Suburban requested joint funding from Arapahoe County Open Spaces to make much-needed infrastructure upgrades. The scope of the project extends to four pedestrian bridge replacements, a new trail connection, addition of a flush restroom facility and construction of a new pedestrian bridge for a total of seven projects.

“The improvements will enhance the trail users experience by providing improved amenities along the High Line Canal corridor from Orchard Road to County Line,” said David A. Lorenz, South Suburban Park and Recreation District’s Executive Director. “The cities and South Suburban are contributing \$650,000 to match Arapahoe County’s \$650,000 for a total project budget of \$1.25 million. South Suburban will manage construction, which is anticipated to start in late 2015.”

To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Space program, visit www.arapahoegov.com.

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